Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 PC-01 SY-05 SCCT-01 OPR-02 MC-02 NIC-01

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R 051100Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9356

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGUI

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

CONFIDENTIAL NDJAMENA 0802

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PINT, CD

SUBJECT: APPARENT ARSON AT CHADIAN SECURITY HEADQUARTERS AND ESCAPE ATTEMPT AT GENDARMERIE LEAD TO ARREST OF SENIOR CHADIAN OFFICERS

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. RADIO CHAD APRIL 3 AND INFOTCHAD APRIL 4 REPORTED THAT APRIL 3 MEETING EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF MNRCS CHAIRED BY PRESIDENT HAD BEEN DEVOTED EXCLUSIVELY TO FIRE NIGHT OF MARCH 30 AT CHADIAN SECURITY COMPANY (CTS) (ELITE PRESIDENTIAL GUARD) HEADQUARTERS N'DJAMENA, FIRE APRIL 1 AT CTS HEADQUARTERS IN SARH, AND SHOOTING NIGHT APRIL 2 AT NATIONAL GENDARMERIE HEADQUARTERS IN DOWNTOWN N'DJAMENA. NO DETAILS GIVEN ON FIRES. SHOOTING INCIDENT OCCURRED ACCORDING PRESS WHEN TWO PRISONERS OVERPOWERED GUARDS, SEIZED WEAPONS, AND FIRED, SERIOUSLY WOUNDING THREE FRENCHMEN WORKING WITH THE GENDARMERIE UNDER CONTRACT TO PRESIDENCY. UNIDENTIFIED GENDARME
INFORMED DEPUTY CHIEF PRESIDENTIAL GUARD AT PRESIDENCY BY TELEPHONE. LATTER REPORTEDLY TELEPHONED COL. DJIME, GENDARMERIE CHIEF, WHO ALLEGEDLY HUNG UP ON HIM. TOMBALBAYE THEN INFORMED BY DEPUTY CHIEF CONFIDENTIAL

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OF GUARD AND WENT DIRECTLY TO HEADQUARTERS OF GENDARMERIE, RESTORED

ORDER, AND PLACED COL. DJIME AND HIS DEPUTY, MAJOR EX-KETTIGA, UNDER ARREST. ALSO ARRESTED WAS GENERAL DJOGO, CHIEF OF PRESIDENTIAL MILITA ${\tt PV}$

CABINET WHO ALLEGEDLY HAD BEEN KEPT CLOSELY INFORMED OF EVENTS BY COL

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DJIME BUT HAD NOT INFORMED PRESIDENT. END UNCLASSIFIED.

BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL.

2. COMMENT: ORIGINAL REPORT REACHING EMB OF GENDARMERIE INCIDENT FROM RELIABLE SOURCE STRESSED CONVICTION PRESIDENT THAT INCIDENT WAS ATTEMPT AT COUP D'ETAT INVOLVING ARRESTED OFFICERS. SECOND REPORT, ALSO FROM RELIABLE SOURCE, ESSENTIALLY SAME AS PRESS REPORT. (BOTH EMB REPORTS SUBMITTED THROUGH OTHER CHANNELS.) WHILE INITIAL REACTION PRESIDENT THAT COUP IN WORKS WOULD NOT BE SURPRISING GIVEN CTS FIRES IMMEDIATELY BEFORE, LACK SUCH SUGGESTION IN SUBSEQUENT REPORTS SUGGEST THAT PRESIDENT FOR MOMENT WILLING HAVE GENDARMERIE INCIDENT CONSIDERED SEPARATE FROM AND INDEPENDENT OF OTHERS. ARREST GEN. DJOGO AND CONTINUED ARREST SINCE 1973 WITHOUT TRIAL GEN. MALLOUM LEAVES GEN. ODINGAR, COMMANDER IN CHIEF CHADIAN ARMY, IN RATHER SPLENDID ISOLATION AS CHAD'S SINGLE GENERAL OFFICER ON ACTIVE SERVICE

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END CONFIDENTIAL.

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Disposition Events

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TAGS: PINT, CD

To: SECSTATE WASHDC BANGUI NIAMEY YAOUNDE PARIS

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